This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): An image output apparatus for outputting an image using image data indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the image output apparatus comprising:

a picture quality adjusting unit that performs a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image; and

an outputting unit that outputs the image adjusted by the picture quality adjusting unit.

Claim 15 (New): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit is configured to perform the picture quality adjustment including the lightness adjustment with a less degree of adjustment in response to the light metering mode information indicating that the light metering mode measures the part of the image than a degree of adjustment in response to the light metering mode information other than the information indicating that the light metering mode measures the part of the image.

Claim 16 (New): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit is configured to perform the picture quality adjustment without the lightness adjustment if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image.

Claim 17 (New): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein

the light metering mode information represents one of a plurality of metering modes including averaged metering, center-weighted metering, spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering, and

the information indicating that the light metering mode measures the part of the image is information indicating spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering.

Claim 18 (New): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit is configured to provide a user interface for allowing a user to adjust the degree of lightness adjustment if the light metering mode information indicates the center-weighted metering.

Claim 19 (New): An image output method of outputting an image using image data indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the image output method comprising:

performing a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image; and

outputting the image that has been adjusted by the picture quality adjustment.

Claim 20 (New): A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, the computer program causing a computer to output an image using image data indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the computer program comprising instructions for causing the computer to perform functions of:

performing a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image; and

outputting the image that has been adjusted by the picture quality adjustment.